



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Ned Lamont
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Caregivers
FROM: Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes
DATE: March 10, 2020
SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness

As Connecticut experiences the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department of Children Families is taking proactive steps to be as prepared as possible. The Department is doing everything we can to ensure the safety and health of the children in care as well as of the parents entrusted to provide care, including the household members. For that reason, the Foster Care Division is asking for your help to obtain the following information:

- Are there household members with **health issues**? (*The Department has a listing of children who are medically complex.*)
- What is the employment status of parents? Do parents **stay at home** full time or are they employed?
- Do you plan out-of-state **travel**?
- What is your emergency **childcare plans** in the event your child's school closes or you are otherwise unavailable to provide care?
- Do you have **WIFI or internet service and a computer or other device your child can use for online learning**?
- Have you provided your child's **school** with your **emergency contact information** in the event of early dismissal or closing?
- What is your **email and/or cell phone** number to update **Everbridge** (*mass alert notification system*)?

Please expect a call from your Foster Care Support Social Worker to verify and/or obtain the above information. The Therapeutic Foster Care Agencies (TFC) will contact their licensed caregivers directly.

Please note that to ensure timely, immediate and consistent responses, the Foster Care Division's Placement Specialists (Matcher) in each region will serve as the point of contact for **all** licensed caregivers to:

- Obtain a **signed Permission to Treat** (460a) for medical care including treatment and testing (*460a provides consent for a medical evaluation and treatment*); and
- Notify the Department should a child, caregiver or household member have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

The contact information for the Placement Specialists/Matcher is included in the table below. Their phones are always covered during the hours of 8:00 to 5:00 M-F. Afterhours, please contact the Careline at 1 800 842-2288. Please note the Placement Specialist/Matcher **cannot provide medical advice or updates**. Please contact your medical provider or for the latest information, resources, and guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Guidance from the federal government can be found by visiting the CDC's website at cdc.gov.

Please also be aware that **symptoms** of COVID-19 can include:

- Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Everyone should follow some **basic steps to keep themselves healthy:**

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based sanitizer;
- Avoid shaking hands as a greeting;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Matchers:

| Regions | Last name | First Name | Desk | Cell | Area Offices |
|---------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Innocent | Fritz | 203-384-5537 | 203-673-5006 | Bridgeport, Norwalk |
| 2 | Hayre | Mark | 203-306-5359 | 203-687-0848 | New Haven, Milford |
| 3 | Kaiser | Kathleen | 860-892-2920 | 860-705-6322 | Norwich |
| 3 | Escarraman | Ileana | 860-450-2034 | 860-213-2556 | Willimantic |
| 3 | Maxfield | Kathleen | 860-638-2145 | 860-503-4319 | Middletown |
| 4 | Ebo | Veronica | 860-418-8185 | 860-418-8185 | Hartford, Manchester |
| 4 | Mack | Jennifer | 860-418-8176 | 860-418-8176 | Hartford, Manchester |
| 5 | Lovetere | Jenn | 203-721-8722 | 860-601-1662 | Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury |
| 5 | Tousey | Renee | 203-721-8730 | 860-601-1641 | Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury |
| 6 | Burgos | Glenda | 860-832-5101 | 860-982-2649 | New Britain, Meriden |

Finally, thank you for opening your home and your heart to the children in your care. Together, we will get through this challenging situation. There is no reason to be alarmed, and please know that we will be there with you as we prepare to respond and act.